

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

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In re:

Case No. 19-32928

Rancher's Legacy Meat Co.,

Debtor.

Chapter 11

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Rancher's Legacy Meat Co., as Debtor-in-Possession, and the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Rancher's Legacy Meat Co.,

Adv. No. 19-03095

Plaintiffs,

v.

Great Western Bank,

Defendant, Counter-Claim-Claimant  
Cross-Claimant, and  
Third-Party Plaintiff,

v.

James L. Ratcliff,

Defendant and Cross-Defendant,

v.

James N. Ratcliff, Jeffrey K. Fredin,  
and Curtis D. Fredin,

Third Party Defendant.

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**ORDER FOR TELEPHONIC APPEARANCE AT MEDIATION**

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At Saint Paul, Minnesota.

1. Mediation will be held on **August 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** before Judge William J. Fisher. The mediation will be conducted telephonically. Prior to the mediation, counsel for each party shall provide a telephone number where they can be reached during the mediation to Judge Fisher's calendar clerk at Kristin\_Neff@mn.uscourts.gov. All participants shall participate and

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negotiate in good faith and should plan on being available for telephonic communication during the entire day of this mediation.

2. The following parties shall appear at the mediation: (1) a representative of Rancher's Legacy Meat Co. and Cameron Lallier, counsel for Rancher's Legacy Meat Co.; (2) a representative of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Rancher's Legacy Meat Co. and Jeffrey Klobucar, Colin Robinson, and Steven Golden, counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Rancher's Legacy Meat Co; (3) James L. Ratcliff and James N. Ratcliff, and Craig Dokken and Ken Edstrom, counsel for James L. Ratcliff and James N. Ratcliff; (4) a representative of Great Western Bank and Julie Landy, counsel for Great Western Bank; and (5) Curtis D. Fredin and Jeffrey K. Fredin, and Andre Barry, counsel for Curtis D. Fredin and Jeffrey K. Fredin. **All party representatives shall be armed with full settlement authority and discretion. In all cases, the party representative should not be in-house counsel directing the litigation.** This means that each party must attend through a person who has the power to change that party's settlement posture during the course of the mediation. **If the party representative has a limit, or "cap" on his or her authority, this requirement is not satisfied. Similarly, if the party representative must contact another person for approval prior to agreeing to a settlement, this requirement is not satisfied.** Any failure to comply with the spirit of this directive will constitute a violation of Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f) (incorporated by Federal Bankruptcy Rule of Procedure 7016).

3. Each attorney shall submit to the undersigned on or before **August 21, 2020**, a confidential mediation statement, of not more than two pages, setting forth (1) a brief history of the parties' prior attempts to settle the case and their respective settlement positions; (2) a computation of the amount in dispute; (3) a reasoned analysis justifying their client's last stated settlement position, including their assessment of their best and worst alternatives to a negotiated agreement, (4) a description of any perceived hindrances or obstacles to productive settlement negotiations as well as any other information that may be helpful to the Court, and (5) the name

and position of each person who will attend the mediation. The mediation statements are for the Court's use only and need not be served on opposing counsel and should not be filed or docketed. Counsel shall e-mail their confidential settlement letter to chambers at the following email address: [wjfchambers@mn.uscourts.gov](mailto:wjfchambers@mn.uscourts.gov).

4. The mediation will be conducted in a confidential manner. I will not disclose any information learned by me at the mediation to the judge assigned to preside over this matter on its merits. I will maintain the full confidentiality of all information obtained in private, unless authorized by any party to make disclosure of the information to the other party.

5. The parties are advised that after receipt of the mediation statements the Court may, in its discretion, contact counsel for the parties jointly or *ex parte* solely for the purpose of assisting the Court's preparation for the mediation.

6. Mediation is a compromise negotiation for the purposes of the federal and state rules of evidence. It constitutes a privileged communication under state law. The entire mediation process is confidential. No stenographic, visual, or audio record will be made, except for the record of appearances made at the beginning of the mediation, and of any settlement that is placed on the record. All conduct, statements, promises, offers, views, and opinions, whether oral or written, made in the course of mediation by any party, their agents, employees, representatives, or other invitees, or by the mediator are confidential. All such shall be deemed to be privileged, in addition and where appropriate. Such content shall not be the subject of future discovery, and will not be admissible for any purpose, including impeachment, in any litigation or other proceeding involving the parties. They shall not be disclosed to anyone not an agent, employee, expert, witness, or representative of any of the parties. The only exception shall be that evidence otherwise discoverable or admissible is not excluded from future discovery or admission as a result of its use in the mediation. The undersigned shall not be called as a witness by any party in any matter related to this proceeding.

7. As mediator, I may evaluate legal or factual claims and speculate as to possible

outcomes. However, the parties must understand and agree that I am not giving legal advice.

The parties must only rely on the legal advice of their attorney.

8. Parties may seek a transcript of any agreement that is placed on the record. The transcript will not be placed on the docket.

9. The parties are free to wear comfortable and casual clothing.

10. Failure of any party or counsel to comply with any part of this Order may result in the postponement of the mediation and/or imposition of an appropriate sanction on the party, company or attorney who failed to comply.

/e/ William J. Fisher

Dated: *August 7, 2020*

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William J. Fisher  
United States Bankruptcy Judge